

E

458

4

-W55-

Wiczorek, Rudolph Jr.

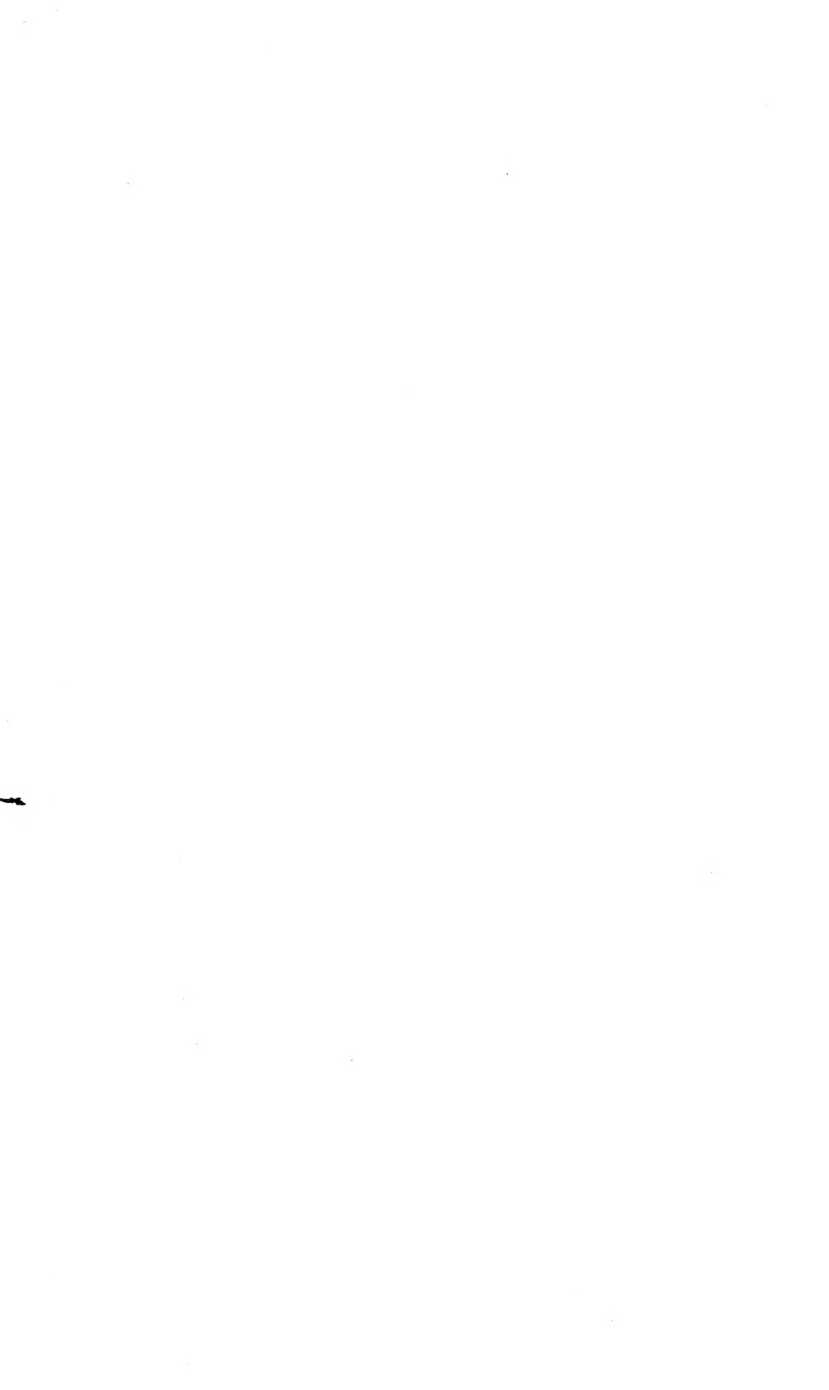
To the 38th Congress of the
U.S. of America. An open letter.



Class E458

Book . 4

W557



To the 38th Congress of the United States of America.

AN OPEN LETTER

— FROM —

DR. RUDOLPH WIECZOREK,

No. 59 West 41st Street, New York.

Gentlemen:—

Our forefathers, in forming the Union, intended to establish a republic. The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) and the Constitution of the United States (Sept. 7, 1787) manifest this aim openly. In the former they proclaim the rights of man—the liberty and equality of the human race; in the latter they guarantee to each State of the Union “a republican form of government” (Art. 4, Sec. 4, § 1).

But in the accomplishment of their noble intent, fortuitous circumstances beset their path with insurmountable difficulties, the effects of which are those inconsistencies we find by a comparison of both the above documents. For, in flagrant contradiction with the doctrine of the rights of man, as laid down in the immortal Declaration, the authors of the Constitution (after a lapse of 11 years) hesitate to abolish Human Slavery—then existing in most of the States. They studiously avoid the slightest allusion to this plague-spot in the political organism, even in the article relating to “persons held to service or labor” (Art. 4, Sec. 2, § 3) as also in the previously-mentioned article, which secures “a republican form of government” to each State. Here they had the best opportunity of inserting: “with or without Slavery, according to the will of the majority of the people of the respective State.” But our forefathers were so thoroughly convinced of the utter incompatibility of Slavery with a republic, that they spurned the very mention of the venomous monster.

This action on part of the Fathers of the Republic called loudly upon their descendants, to wipe that foul stain of dishonor from the brow of the Nation. Our forefathers gave their progeny credit for a sufficiency of humanity, patriotism and honor to accomplish this noble work. But alas! only a portion of the States responded to the call of duty; the remainder, actuated by a demoniacal selfishness, recoiled not from insulting the spirit of a civilized age, nor from defying the dictates of humanity, by the reduction of their fellow-citizens, in the States where the existence of Slavery had ceased, to the condition of kidnappers and bloodhounds (Fugitive Slave Law)—nay, they even dared to attempt

a perpetuation of this pestilential iniquity by an amendment to the Constitution, legalizing the same for ever.

In order to depress all opposition, and to prostrate any agitation against Slavery in the Northern States, they organized clubs and associations composed of the offscourings of the so-called Chivalry. Ruined pettifoggers, bankrupt speculators, disgraced officials, venal priests, professional sharpers, pardoned convicts, dilapidated "gentlemen," gamblers, political vagrants of all denominations furnished the material for this "propaganda." This sort of "gentlemen," all trained and experienced in the doctrine of the sovereignty of the States, of the constitutionality of Slavery as the corner-stone of the so-called "Democracy," of the centralization and decentralization, were the appointed professors of Southern principles in the North. Here, under the protection of other influential "expounders of Southern ideas," and under strange names and firms, they established law and land-offices, agencies, contractor - auction - broker - lottery - shops, &c., in connection with various secret lodges and societies. At election times, these "worthies" were constantly at their posts, teaching so-called "Democracy," generally by peculiar arguments, prominent among which were brandy, rum, whisky, slung-shot, bowie-knives, revolvers, &c. This practice was in operation from the early days of the Union to the year 1830, when the South Carolina "nullification" scheme, originated by John Calhoun, was frustrated by the great Andrew Jackson,—up to the present time. In consequence, public opinion in a great portion of the United States was vitiated by anti-Republican and anti-Democratic principles. But the spirit of liberty and civilization manifested its existence in the Union. Upon a platform of freedom, a new political party arose, and obtained the control of public affairs. There was not the slightest injury committed upon any one of the slavemongers in the South, not one slave taken from them; but the mere name of "Republicanism," being identified with the principles of freedom, arose in their scared consciences like a phantom of vengeance, and drove them to the most unjustifiable act ever committed by men—to the secession and rebellion of 1861.

Gentlemen of Congress, you know all the facts better than I can tell you. What is the Southern Rebellion? Senator Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, in his speech of September 10, 1863, at the Cooper Institute at New York, (Pag. 58) says: "The rebellion is slavery in arms; slavery on horseback; slavery on foot; slavery raging on the battle-field; slavery raging on the quarter-deck, robbing, destroying, burning, killing, in order to uphold slavery. Its legislation is simply slavery in statutes; slavery in chapters; slavery in sections—with an enacting clause. Its diplomacy is slavery in pretended ambassadors; slavery in cunning letters; slavery in cozening promises; slavery in persistent negotiations—all to secure for its legality the so-much-desired welcome. Say what you will; try to avoid it, if you can; you are compelled to admit that the rebellion is nothing more than organized slavery, which now, in its madness, surrounded by its criminal clan, and led by its felon chieftains, braves the civilization of the age."

2-1-1903, R.M.W.
a. S. 9 Feb. 12

The beautiful and magnificent Temple of Freedom—the last refuge of oppressed mankind—the Union of America, is partly ruined. No day has passed since the beginning of this detestable rebellion without recording new victims: 500,000 invaluable lives have been lost; 500,000 of our best citizens have been murdered by this rebellion. Now, gentlemen, if our eminent forefathers, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Patrick Henry, &c., if they could counsel us what to do in this critical time, —would they not say: “Cut off the root of all this evil!”

Gentlemen of Congress, I take the liberty to ask you respectfully: What stands in your way to stop this brutish barbarism, this mainspring of all the present calamity and misfortune at once; to abolish Slavery for ever?

Our forefathers did not abolish Slavery, for the protest of the mighty slaveholding aristocracy would have defeated the general object of forming the Union, but this objection is now removed. Now is the time to do it. The slaveholding aristocracy being hemmed in by our victorious armies, bearing on its forehead the mark of Cain, the stain of treason and rebellion, being sentenced to death as the assassin of 500,000 of our brothers—this outlawed criminal stands not in your way; it already quails with mortal terror at the energy of our brave soldiers; it can no longer move on the offensive, and its infernal empire is melting away like snow in sunshine. We know the question is pending yet, how many thousands of lives, and how many thousands of millions of dollars we shall have to sacrifice before this bloody imposture collapses; but the triumph of the Union cannot be doubted by any patriot citizen; albeit we should be constrained to wait yet a little longer. Now, gentlemen of Congress, I venture to repeat my former question: Why do you hesitate to speak out the glorious word which must be spoken, as surely as the sun is on the heavens? Rouse, gentlemen! You cannot avoid it. Duty calls with a voice of thunder. Rouse!—The people call upon you; the spirit of the age calls upon you; justice calls upon you; the blood of 500,000 murdered brothers calls upon you. Gentlemen, Senators, and Representatives of the United States of America, rouse, and do your duty!

Another obstacle encountered by our forefathers in the attempt to establish here a perfect Republic, were the States then existing here, with their peculiar constitutions, laws, and rights. This is evident from the Constitution, through which our fathers, with Solonic wisdom, delivered the States from all sovereign rights, vesting them in the Congress of the United States, thus leaving to the States merely the enjoyment of those privileges absolutely essential to their internal economy. The entire abrogation of this nuisance of a composite State was certainly their sincere desire; but this endeavor was likewise defeated by the egotism of their contemporaries, especially of the governors, legislators, and other officials benefitted by this individualization of States. Hence, they were forced to content themselves with reducing these States to mere skeleton or phantom States, in the expectation that advancing civilization and an enlarged experience would

eventually convince a majority of the people of the impracticability of their illogical institutions, and, finally, persuade them to abolish the States within the State of the Union. But even in this case the fathers trusted their descendants too far. The latter, instead of abating the existing confusion, have sought to perpetuate and perfect it; no matter whether their titles of Excellency, Honorable, Esquire, Reverend, were dependent on a real or a mere phantom State, they were contented with pocketing their huge salaries and fees, irrespective of their duty of establishing a true Republic for their offspring. They practised the Roman maxim: "*Divide et impera*"—knowing that this was the proper manner to ruin nations. They invented the doctrine of "centralization and decentralization," and demonstrated the latter to be "the only manner of proceeding to uphold the Republic." This is, in fact, an infernal doctrine, not less detestable than the doctrine of the "sovereignty of States."

The Territories acquired in the course of time were divided into new States, which, barely possessed of the requisite minimum population (often attained through artificial and delusive means) were speedily thronged by hosts of patronized and recommended "Hons.," "Esqs." and "Revs.," who, under the lead of a few predestined "Excellencies," established their homes there and announced their official existence by selecting the best government lands for themselves. Thus the intelligent men of the Nation and the Government both became accomplices to this gigantic conspiracy against the existence of the Republic. The mass of the people suspected nothing and accustomed themselves by-and-by to view the entire proceedings, including the ridiculous titles assumed by these bogus potentates, as legal.

The State governments have frequently pretended certain sovereign rights, for instance that of authorizing certain private corporations to emit and circulate money, notwithstanding the express and absolute constitutional denial of any such right to the separate State and its exclusive reservation to the Congress of the United States. The paragraphs referred to, say: "No state shall coin money, emit bills of credit, or make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts." (Art. I, Sec. 10, § 1.) "Congress shall have power to coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin." (Art. I, Sec. 8, § 5.) The States, having no right and no power to create a circulating medium, and being obliged to respect as such no other but United-States currency or coin, evidently possess no right to impart such privilege to a private corporation. Can anything be imparted unless one possesses it? Notwithstanding, the States have authorized thousands of banking associations to issue paper money, without once hesitating at this infraction of the Constitution. In local transactions, these banking institutions may have been of some convenience, and, under a proper management, tolerably safe; but for general circulation, these thousands of varieties of bank-notes, with their thousands of counterfeits, neither were nor are, by any means, a reliable or convenient medium. *These State banks were the only available instruments of the enemies of the country to accumulate,*

by means of written "*promises to pay*," the real coin of the nation in the hands of a few, who were at liberty to dispose of it at their pleasure. This State-bank currency is the paper dragon which devoured the "golden calf." Through these means, the South, having absorbed the bulk of our coin, was enabled to raise and feed large armies during this long war. Therein lies the "great mystery" of the "Knights" of the sunny South.

What the solidity of those banks amounts to, we have observed in the beginning of this war. The banks suspended specie payments. They sold the deposits made to them in gold and silver, with a profit of from 50 to 60 per centum, and when depositors called for their coin, they paid them in "legal tenders"—that is, in "*promises to pay*"! This was, and is, open robbery, whereby the banks gained enough to redeem their entire circulation, and to reserve funds for future operations. I ask you, gentlemen, what difference is there between these banks and the mock-auction shops in our great cities? I perceive only this difference, that the mock-auctioneer, if convicted, is held responsible for the stolen amount, while at the same time the said banking institutions are protected by our public authorities, in their illegal business.

Where is our gold and silver, formerly circulating in such abundance? Who made it disappear so suddenly and thoroughly? Come with me, gentlemen, I will show you where it is! *In the vaults of these banks you may find all the masses of gold, silver and copper. There they are—there they stay.* Our Government is subject to enormous difficulties and losses by these manipulations of the banks; the people are suffering thereunder; the laws of commercial intercourse are deranged thereby. And what amidst all this public calamity, are those banks doing for the public welfare? They demand *the interest* for all their accumulated State stocks—in specie. And this is not enough. *They want it in advance!* Gentlemen; consult Mr. Chase in this matter. If this gentleman knows his business, and if he is willing to tell the truth, we must say that these banks interfere to a serious extent with the National finances; that they must be closed by act of Congress—the sooner the better. From the moment when we were constrained to emit United States notes as a circulating medium, it was the duty of Congress to render all other bills in circulation illegal. Congress, in not acting thereupon, have neglected their duty—in favor of the *Plutocracy*. Furthermore, you have, in establishing the act for the emission of United States bills, at the rate of 7.30 per centum,—added the clause: that said interest shall be paid in gold. At that time, 7.30 per centum was more than a legal rate in the United States of America. There is no excuse for Congress in thus breaking the law. Besides this breach of law, the clause "that the interest shall be paid in gold," effects a depreciation of our currency. The law rendering United States notes a "legal tender" compelled the people, without exception, to take them in payment of debts. Do the Plutocracy of our country not form a portion of the people, or since when are they entitled to more consideration than the sovereign people of the United States? Congress, in this case, acted in defiance of the

law, against the rights of the people—all *in favor of the Plutocracy*. The same inconsistency exists in the enactment, that all import duties shall be paid in specie. This law commits an injustice to our importers, without conferring an atom of benefit on the people; the only object thereby attained is the realization of gold for the payment of interest, and this alleged act is but a *benefit to the Plutocracy*. All these laws are unwise, being in direct contradiction to the interests of the people of the Union. They are unjustifiable, and *the next Congress is not bound to respect them for one moment*. Now, gentlemen, as part of said laws were enacted by you, I take the liberty of asking: Have you considered the matter before you acted in the manner above alluded to; or did you act thus under the momentary pressure of extraordinary circumstances? If the latter, then you must proceed to repair the damage without delay. But if you have acted through an understanding with this ever unconscionable plutocracy, thus giving sustenance to these enemies of every republic, and especially of the United States of America—then, gentlemen, a great responsibility rests on your shoulders. This, the simple, logical truth, is an enemy to flattery. You may, therefore, excuse my liberty in addressing you so openly.

Now, let us consider the States as portions of the Union. The admission of the existence of states within a state, is in itself a logical absurdity. And through the experience of the lives of nations, history has recorded the axiom: That a state within a state is a sure ruin to both. We will comprehend this better when observing the *status quo* here in this case. Each State of the Union has its peculiar rate of interest, its peculiar measures and weights, its peculiar constitution, its peculiar laws, its peculiar institutions, &c. All this engenders an inconceivably enormous mass of confusion. No sage, no philosopher, no lawyer, no statesman knows all the laws of all the states in the Union. This inextricable confusion is in fact an immense benefit to our aristocracy and plutocracy; while for the people it is but an abominable trap, the main instrument of their oppression, and the source of all our public misery.

Ancient history reports the existence of the so-called Labyrinth, erected by one Dadalus as late as 1380, B. C., by order of the famous Minos, King of the Island of Crete. This was a vast building, traversed in all directions by a number of entangled mazes, so that no one could find the way out. This Labyrinth was inhabited by Minotaurus, the son of Minos' wife by a bull (taurus). This monster had a bull's head, the rest of his body being human—living men were his daily food. The people of Athens delivered every year a tribute of seven boys and seven girls to this monster. Finally Theseus, one of the victims, assisted by the daughter* of King Minos, slew it. Now, gentlemen, our State laws are just such a Labyrinth—no one can find the way out. This Labyrinth of ours is infested by a monster similar to the Minotaurus, demanding his tribute without indulgence, pity, shame, or conscience, from the people;—the most of it from the inexperienced, innocent, and unsophisticated; and none can escape.

*) Who gave him a ball of twine, to enable him to find the way.

This monster is composed of the mass of our professional lawyers and officials. Gentlemen, Minos was a king ; the Island of Crete had an aristocratic organization ; it was inhabited only by lords and slaves. There a Labyrinth may have been in order, but what occasion is there for such an institution in this Republic, where citizens ought to be free and equal ? The aggregate of our laws forms a regular fortress, with bastions, walls, ramparts, trenches, mines, covered and secret entrances and exits—the innumerable paragraphs bristling in formidable array like the palisades around the fortress. But this fortress is a protection for the aristocracy, for the plutocracy only—it is a bar for the poor man asking satisfaction from the rich man. The poor people cannot enter it. Without money, no satisfaction can be obtained from our law. The lawyer must be paid ; the constable must be paid ; the court must be paid before granting a hearing ; and even when the case is gained, it is so at a great pecuniary sacrifice. Our law offers protection only to the Plutocracy ; the poor cannot enjoy its benefits as long as riches usurp the place of justice.

With but few exceptions, high officials, judges, lawyers or rich men, when convicted of crime, go unpunished. None of our heads of departments are called to an account of their administration at the end of their terms. The successors in office know how to cover the faults of their predecessors, consequently people are never informed about the conduct of their officials. Our custom-house collectors, post-masters, county sheriffs, county clerks, &c., besides their high salaries, frequently derive incomes fifty times greater from fees, &c., which are beyond control. Our courts should exercise a proper supervision over this part of our public life ; they do not. Our “ prominent citizens,” being the presumptive successors to those offices, remain quiet, and thus, by official frauds and thefts, millions are lost to the people. Hence, there is no real equality before the law.

Most of our laws are of English origin—royal British laws. They are, in fact, nothing but royal British chains and locks ; so are our courts images of royal British courts. What business has this royal trash in our Republic ? Down with these English laws !—Down with these English courts ! Is there not intelligence enough in this land to establish law-courts in accordance with the principles of republicanism ! Shall our people always be kept in the dark concerning the laws of the country, and debarred from proceeding one step, without the guidance of professional lawyers, skillful sharpers, thieves, and skinners ? The laws of a republic should be short, determined, and intelligible, excluding all ambiguity, so that every one may acquire a knowledge of them without being compelled to support as assistants in law matters a class of vile swindlers. The laws of a republic should be a bulwark, a protection to the righteous, and a bar, a scourge to the bad ; and, therefore, justice in a republic must be accessible to every one without lawyers and without money. The people appoint officers to serve the people—to serve all without exception or distinction. They are paid once, and once should be enough for them. Is it so here ? The lawyer is the Alpha and the Omega

of all our undertakings in social and commercial intercourse. We now stand, in regard to this class of men, just where the Athenians stood previous to the collapse of their Republic. Sycophancy, artifice, subterfuge, dissimulation, and corruption of every sort, vitiate all branches of our civil service. Our institutions are rotten to the core. Most of our courts are degraded to dens of robbers. There you can appraise the marked value of law. You can obtain one, two, three, ten, or a hundred dollars' worth of justice in lots to suit purchasers. Whether right or wrong, you pay, and you are right—you must and shall be right—for your money.

For money you can buy anything—you can buy votes. Our Plutocracy pay so-and-so much, and its "expounders" are sure to be nominated and elected. When the election is over, the candidates generally let the cat out of the bag, and tell you how much they paid. This fact has procured for the people the name of "voting cattle." Their degradation of the elective franchise to the service of the miserable dollar,—this horrible demoralization of the masses is an everlasting stain on the forehead of our aristocracy. What difference is there between the negro-owner and this voting-cattle-owner? They are partners in one business—the making of slaves. The former takes possession of the body by the subjection of its physical power, the latter seizes the soul by destroying its moral power—both act for the lust of gain.

Now, gentlemen of Congress, I ask you respectfully, are you acquainted with all the above-represented facts? In your character as representatives of the people—as true citizens of a Republic, you must do away with this confusion of States in the Republic, this medley of laws, and this demoralization created by the might of the dollar. You must stop the encroachments of our Plutocracy, and to this end you must stop the land monopolies. The ancient republics of Sparta, Athens, and Rome, collapsed as victims of monopolies, and especially of the land monopoly. As long as the land in Sparta was an unalienable possession in the hands of 39,000 families, the republic needed no fortifications and the city of Sparta no walls; but after the law of Ephor Epitadeus (340 B. C.) enabled real estate in said republic to be sold, exchanged, assigned, bequeathed, and incumbered, all the lands came into the possession of only 100 rich persons, and the republic fell a victim to the despotism of the King of Macedon. So it was with Athens, where, originally, all lands were accessible only to real cultivators. Every one fought for his home, for his family, for his fatherland. Commerce, industry, the arts and the sciences flourished; the republic of Athens attained a wide celebrity, and the name of being the fountain of the civilization of its age; she bore such sons as Solon, Socrates, Plato, Demosthenes, Aristotle, and other brilliant stars on the firmament of classical antiquity. But the time came when King Philip of Macedon could say in reference to Greece: "No fortress wall is too high for an ass loaded with gold to jump over." After capital had swallowed the country and the actual cultivators became dependent on the Plutocracy, patriotism was extinguished like a lamp deprived of oil. Why should they fight for others? Why should they defend the prop-

erty—the land of others—the very land where their cradles and hearths had stood, and wherefrom they had been expelled by the aggressions of the moneyed powers? The orator Demosthenes (338 B. C.) exclaimed in open court before the people: “Now, there are statesmen among us owning so many lands that all your farms in aggregate will not be equal to them.” The republic of Athens was constrained to buy soldiers in order to fill her contingents, and when the enemy paid a higher bounty, the soldiers preferred the latter, and frequently engaged to fight against their fatherland. These causes destroyed the republic of Athens, and thus Rome was ruined. In this latter republic, the public domains originally were accessible to the aristocracy, or nobility, to the Patricians exclusively. The law of Licinius Stolo (366 B. C.) and its re-introduction by Tiberius Gracchus (131 B. C.), and Caius Gracchus (123 B. C.), produced only a temporary effect in favor of the people. But, gradually, the mass of the public lands accumulated in the hands of but 1,000 persons, some of them owning such extensive estates, that, though cultivated by slaves, the annual revenue of each amounted to 3,000,000 dollars. The renowned writer Seneca says: “Rivers which had divided hostile nations flowed during this period through the vast estates of private citizens.” After all the real estate had been taken from the people, there was nothing remaining to them but what the proverb then in use said: “*Ultima spes miles;*” that is, the last hope of being enlisted as a soldier.

Gentlemen of Congress, I ask you respectfully: Are not our public domains in a condition similar to those of the Spartans, Athenians, and Romans, just previous to the downfall of their respective republics, being opened but to the Plutocracy? From \$2 50 to 12½ cents per acres, all those who have money can buy our public lands wherever they are for sale. But to the poor man, who has no money, the four corners of the public domain are locked. You may, gentlemen, revert to the homestead law of May 20, 1862. This law, and the instructions of the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington of October 30, 1862, lie before me at this moment, and I can only gather therefrom that any citizen may, under a great many restrictions, to which individuals buying land are not subject, occupy 160 acres of public land, but he still has to pay \$14 to the officials preparing the necessary papers; and I am, therefore, justified in saying that our public domains are open but to the Plutocracy and to the dollars. Gentlemen, you see herefrom, that our internal economy in this respect must be radically reformed if the Republic shall live. I propose the following sketch of a law:

§ I.

The public lands shall henceforth not be sold, not conveyed to any person or persons, nor given as an equivalent for services rendered to the United States.

§ II.

No one in this Republic shall possess land exceeding the amount of 640 acres.

§ III.

Every citizen or person who has declared his intentions of becoming such shall be entitled to 160 acres of the public domains gratis, and free from all taxes and fees whatever.

§ IV.

Any person owning more than 160 acres of land in this Republic shall pay on the surplus an annual tax of not less than 1 per cent.

§ V.

Any person owning more than 640 acres of land in this Republic shall give up the remainder to the people, and shall be entitled to a refunding of the original cost, added to a reasonable remuneration for the improvements thereon.

Gentlemen, Senators, and Representatives: In order to carry out these indispensable reforms, viz.: The perpetual Abolition of Slavery, the transformation of the States and Counties into Provinces and Circuits, the abrogation of State banks and State laws, and the introduction of a radical reform in the Public Land System, the Constitution of the United States must inevitably be transmuted into a new Constitution of the Republic of North America. An essential change in the existing Constitution is already unavoidable, in order merely to secure those reforms adopted by your body at the present session: why, then, do you falter in the completion of the work once begun? Do you shrink before the Plutocracy or aristocracy? I deny the possibility of its existence in a perfect republic. Then what lies in your way in erecting the foundation of the most magnificent Temple of Liberty ever known to history! Rouse, gentlemen! the cycle of Time is relentlessly rolling on. Would you rather gloriously advance with it, or would you vainly attempt to impede its victorious progress? You are but men, and you are not capable of doing that which was impossible to the gods of the ancients. They were crushed by the onward march of Time, so that only their memory remained on the pages of history. To work, gentlemen—to work bravely, laying the corner-stone of the future Republic of America!

Or do you fear to contradict the will of the people? Why then, gentlemen, assemble the entire people of these United States, acquaint them with the contents of the above, and let them vote upon it. I will forfeit my life if you shall not find the opposition confined exclusively to the aristocrats and monopolists—the people standing up in solid phalanx in favor of the proposition. But suppose you still remain impassive and offer defiance to the judgment of the age, you may as well be informed that this consummation will be reached notwithstanding; for the next revolution shall then dictate the Constitution of the Republic of America.

Should you, however, allow yourselves to be induced to action in this matter, do not, for heaven's sake, forget to annul the distinction now existing between two classes of citizens. I refer to the two classes to which the offices of President and Vice-President, &c., are respectively attainable and not attainable, the former

class monopolizing those marvelous titles of Excellency, Honorable, Esquire, &c.

Our British cousins, the Jesuits, and the rest of the transatlantic self-styled "Friends of the Union," have ever blazoned as eminently proper every error committed in this so-called Republic, among others, the statute in the Constitution whereby the offices of President and Vice-President were rendered inaccessible to foreign-born citizens. I perceive in this neither wisdom nor acuteness, but a logical absurdity, which entailed upon the Union one of the chief causes of its decay, in thus introducing the principle of a hereditary nobility in open contradiction to the same Constitution, which (Art. 1, Sec. 9, § 7) especially forbids the introduction of a nobility. The nativists of this country are generally a more pretentious and supercilious set than any European possessor of a patent of nobility. The nativists, with their secret lodges ("American Union," "Know-Nothings," &c.) have inflicted just as serious injuries on this Republic as the Southern Rebellion. Supposing that I am a citizen of the United States, why shall I bear that character only in 99 cases out of a 100 and not in the hundredth? Why should I assist in making a President or Vice-President of the United States, being at the same time disqualified from holding these offices myself? A republic should be composed of but one class of citizens—entire citizens—not 1.00 and 0.99 ones. This state of things is an offense against the logic of common-sense, or, as the sage carpenter of Nazareth would have called it, "An offense against the Holy Ghost."

In connection with this land and birthright aristocracy, another offence has been committed against the spirit of the Republic. I allude to the previously-mentioned titles. Whence are they derived? The Constitution of the United States permits no titles, but distinctly forbids them in the above-mentioned section in these words:

"No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States; and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall accept of any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatsoever, from any king, prince or foreign state." (Art. I., Sec. 9, § 7.) "No State shall grant any title of nobility." (Art. I., Sec. 10, § 1.)

Where, then, have the titles of the President and Vice-President of the United States originated? Certainly not with the people; for a nation may not be charged with such an offense against the logic of reason or the "Holy Ghost." Can a nation name her servants Excellencies or Honorables before they have proved their claims to such appellations? An absolute monarch, whose existence is in itself an outrage on common-sense, and with whom reason is but a minor consideration, may perpetrate such vagaries; but neither you, gentlemen, nor the President of the United States, the Cabinet officers, and Envoys, have any right to assume those titles. Then away with these relics of British chains and locks! If lawyers, officials, speculators, and the whole tribe of the codfish-aristocracy, insist on making themselves ridiculous by appending "Esq.," to their names, as the clergy do by prefixing "Rev." to theirs, abandon them to their predilections. Their

Lord, in passing the Grand Review over them, will recognize them thereby.

Only one thing more I request of you, gentlemen: make yourselves familiar with the subjoined platform: —

One Country—One Republic—One People—
One State—One Constitution—One Legislation
—One Code of Laws—One Currency—One Rate
of Interest—One System of Weights and Meas-
ures—One Government—One Representation of
the People !

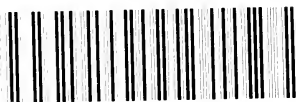
On this platform, gentlemen, I am always

Your obed't serv't,

NEW YORK CITY, {
MAY 24, 1864. }

DR. RUDOLPH WIECZOREK.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 012 028 392 3